

SECRET/NOFORN

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS - NOVEMBER 1, 1983

1. GRENADA: WHAT THE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS PROVE

Documents captured by US forces in Grenada show that East Bloc countries had plans to provide Grenada with far more war materiel than its 1,500-man army could use. They also confirm that the late Prime Minister Bishop's New Jewel Movement party was in fact a hardline Marxist-Leninist party dominated by radicals who eliminated Bishop because he was "too bourgeois." Finally, they assert that Gen. Austin's Revolutionary Military Council intentionally "crushed" the Bishop group on October 19.

Documents captured thus far by US forces in Grenada show that Soviet, Cuban and North Korean involvement in the militarization of the island was on a relatively large scale. The three Soviet agreements--covering the period 1980-85--provided for delivery of \$25.8 million in weapons, ammunition, uniforms, trucks and other logistical equipment. Another \$12 million in war materiel was to be supplied per an agreement with North Korea, signed in April. There is not sufficient evidence to conclude whether the equipment promised or delivered on the basis of these agreements was intended primarily for Grenadian soldiers. However, initial indications are that if these agreements were fully implemented, they would make it possible to fully equip up to 6,000 soldiers. By contrast, the Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA) numbered only 1,500 to be supplemented by a part-time militia of several thousand.

The captured minutes of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) Central Committee depict the NJM as a hardline Marxist party stricken by deep ideological divisions that centered around the question of whether Maurice Bishop was moving too slowly to consolidate a Leninist restructuring of Grenada. Bishop was described as a "right opportunist," a friend of the "petty bourgeois," a person whose inaction on critical fronts had left the people ("masses") dissatisfied and the island vulnerable to "ideological infiltration" by the church. The Central Committee believed that Deputy Prime Minister Coard had to be given the real power in Grenada in order to traverse the "Marxist-Leninist path" with "Bolshevik staunchness." Moreover, the Central Committee's dissatisfaction with Bishop along these lines goes back at least as far as September 1982. No evidence has yet been found that the Soviets or Cubans were playing a direct role in the power struggle.

The documents also show that even though Coard was not a member of the short-lived "Revolutionary Military Council," it fully espoused his hardline ideological interpretations. In a proclamation from the RMC to the PRA on the day of Bishop's death, it was stated that prompt action by PRA units "guided by the Central Committee of the NJM" had "crushed" Bishop, and the other "counterrevolutionaries." The event was described as a "victory" for the revolution.

State Dept. review completed

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